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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, 25, D. C.

May 10, 1946

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH
ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER No. 10

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

RESIGNATION

Mr. Howard W. Thompson, who for the past several years has been in charge of the Marketing Field Office in Los Angeles, has resigned to enter private industry. Mr. M. T. Coogan, who has been assistant to Mr. Thompson, has been appointed Acting in Charge of the Los Angeles Office.

S. R. Smith
Director

POTATO DIVISION

MEETINGS

A. E. Mercker attended the meeting of the North Carolina Produce Growers Association at Washington, North Carolina on Friday, May 10, for the purpose of explaining the 1946 potato price support program.

VETERAN RETURNS

William E. Roberts, who was with the Branch for a brief period prior to his service in the Army, is now assigned to the Economic Section of the Potato Division.

A. E. Mercker, Acting Chief

PROCESSED PRODUCTS STANDARDIZATION AND INSPECTION DIVISION

STANDARDIZATION

Considerable interest is being shown by processors of frozen fruits and vegetables in standards for grades of certain frozen fruits and berries for manufacturing purposes.

U. S. Standards for Grades of Frozen Sweet Cherries and Frozen Grapefruit are now practically ready to present to the Administrator for approval.

INSPECTION

It is anticipated that several contracts for canned ground edible type fish will be awarded soon in the New England area. This fish is to be used for relief feeding in China. Inspectors will be assigned to the processing plants to assure plant sanitation and to see that only fresh fish of edible species are packed.

NEW PUBLICATION ON GOVERNMENT INSPECTION OF PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

U. S. Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication No. 598, entitled "Questions and Answers on Government Inspection of Processed Fruits and Vegetables" by F. L. Southerland and Elinore T. Linderer, has just been released. This publication answers numerous questions commonly raised by those interested in inspection and standardization of processed fruits and vegetables.

DEMONSTRATIONS

The following demonstrations have recently been presented by members of this Division:

DATE	GROUP	ADDRESS	INSPECTOR PARTICIPATING
4-5-46 & 4-12-46	Graduate Students Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Cambridge, Mass.	Herman B. Swett
4-11-46	Parent Teachers Association	Atwater, Calif.	Daniel R. Russell
4-25-46	Home Economics Classes Ohio State University	Columbus, Ohio	E. H. Bagley

Ben Yormack of our Gardiner, Maine office appeared before the Main State Home Economics Association, May 4, 1946, and presented a talk on inspection of processed fruits and vegetables, and demonstrated the grading of canned green and wax beans.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEATH OF A FORMER INSPECTOR

Members of this Division who knew Mrs. Helen Wolf Matthews, will all be sorry to learn of her death, which occurred about a month after she resigned from our service. Mrs. Matthews, whose official headquarters were at Macon, was assigned to our Rochester, New York office, and recently to our Nashville, Tennessee office. She performed her duties in a very capable manner and was well liked wherever her work carried her.

F. L. Southerland, Chief

DRIED FRUIT DIVISION

SURPLUS SALES

Sales under Announcement FV-71, dated April 25, 1946, of approximately 7,300 tons of dried fruits, will complete the sale in civilian channels of all dried fruits thus far declared surplus by the armed forces, except for three small lots declared surplus by the Marine Corps to be offered for sale under Announcement FV-81, to be released soon. Commodity Credit Corporation stocks of dried fruit not needed on programs have been disposed of in civilian channels with the exception of several small lots totaling approximately 120 tons to be covered by Announcement FV-82, now being prepared.

The Navy has recently declared surplus approximately 1,342 tons of tree nuts - pecans, cashews, almonds and mixed nuts - in vacuum packed consumer cans. The time and method of sale of these nuts are now being considered. Disposition will probably be accomplished in the near future.

E. M. Graham, Chief

FRESH DECIDUOUS FRUIT SECTION

INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Industry Advisory Committee meetings with representatives of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Office of Price Administration will bring a number of persons from the fruit industry into Washington during the next two weeks. The committees scheduled to meet are:

Fresh Sour Cherry Industry Advisory Committee	- May 13
Processed R.S.P. Cherry Industry Advisory Committee	- May 14
Fresh Apple Industry Advisory Committee	- May 15
Task group, Horticultural Industry Advisory Committee on Foreign Trade	- May 15-17
Fresh Table Grape Industry Advisory Committee	- May 20
Fresh Juice Grape Industry Advisory Committee	- May 21

The meeting of the Fresh Apple Industry Advisory Committee on May 15 will be informal in nature and is being held to allow preliminary discussions of certain problems prior to the official meeting with USDA and OPA representatives on June 17 and 18.

UNITED STATES-CANADIAN HORTICULTURAL MEETING

On Wednesday, May 15, the task group from the deciduous and citrus fruit, vegetable, and potato membership of the Horticultural Industry Advisory Committee on Foreign Trade will reconvene in Washington, D. C., meeting with representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture, to consider problems relating to the exchange of fruits and vegetables between the U. S. and Canada. This group will be joined by a similar group from the Canadian Government and Horticultural Council on May 16 and 17. This meeting will be, essentially, a continuation of the meetings which were held in Chicago March 26-29.

Mr. E. A. Meyer, Assistant Administrator of Production and Marketing Administration, and Mr. L. A. Wheeler, Director of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, are co-chairman of the Horticultural Industry Advisory Committee on Foreign Trade.

D. M. Rubel, Chief

MARKET NEWS DIVISION

J C KELLER NOW IN WASHINGTON

Jay Keller, who has been handling the Presque Isle office during Mr. Russell's absence, has returned to Washington. Mr. Keller will handle the work in connection with the honey and peanut reports and will also generally supervise the work of the Market Reports Section.

FATHER AND SON COMBINATION

John J. Gardner, Jr., has just been appointed to the Market News Division and will report for duty in Philadelphia on May 13. Mr. Gardner is the son of J. J. Gardner who is in charge of the Pittsburgh inspection office. He is a graduate of Massachusetts State College. He was recently discharged from the Army where he served as Infantry Lieutenant. Prior to his service in the Army he was a member of the Marine Corps.

ADDITIONS TO CODE

May 20 add to the H - Demand, Trading and Market page:

HOP (For (on) bunched stock OP

HOS " " topped stock OS

On the JI-JO-JU page change

OT to read "heavy pack" instead of "ring packed"

These additions and changes are being made at the suggestion of Mrs. Kast of the New York City office.

POPULAR SUMMARY

Based on number of calls we have had for extra copies of the Summary of the 1945-46 Red River Valley Potato Season it is one of the most popular released in a number of years. Since no summary had been issued from that point during the past eighteen years Mr. Burrell compiled a very complete statistical history of the deal in addition to the summarization of last season's operations. Calls have been so numerous that a re-run will be necessary before additional copies are available.

SHIPPING POINT AND MARKET NOTES AS OF MAY 10

First cars Imperial Valley cantaloups expected around May 15, commercial movement May 20-25; unofficial estimates 10-12,000 cars cantaloups and allied melons if cars available. South Texas onion deal wound up unusually early, quality deteriorating rapidly, most buyers have left deal; some acreage plowed under - mostly early acreage of poor quality and late acreage which did not make a crop due to dry weather; Taylor section and north Texas crops reported in good condition. South Carolina potato shipments increasing - season earlier than normal. California new potato shipments to date heaviest on record, 2,287 cars through May 4 compared with 850 through May 5 last year; shipments now over 400 car per day mark. North Carolina potato shipments expected begin around May 15 with volume movement beginning week of May 20. Florida watermelon shipments increasing - season earlier than normal. Ceilings suspended indefinitely on watermelons under amendment 27 to Suspension Order 132, effective May 7; same amendment exempts cherries, apricots, plums and Italian prunes, for fresh use, from price control. First car of Georgia peaches shipped May 8; movement expected to become fairly active during week of May 20. To date supplies in most terminal markets have not been seriously disrupted as a result of the coal strike but both terminal markets and shipping areas are anticipating serious future difficulties, especially if return of empties is greatly retarded. Return of empties has already been slowed down. Watch this situation closely and keep us advised for your area.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS

Location	In Charge	Commodity	Probable Opening & Closing Dates
Charleston, S.C. 16 County Center Bldg.	D. R. Hall	Potatoes & vegetables	May 8 - June 7
Crystal Springs, Miss.	B.I.Burrell	Vegetables	Apr.24- June 25
Foley, Alabama	H.Jack Jones	Potatoes	Apr.22- May 25
Lakeland, Fla. LW Box 191	H.F.Willson	Citrus	Oct.7 - May 17
Sanford, Fla. LW State Farmers Market	C.D.Sherman	Celery & vegetables	Jan.2 - May 31
Weslaco, Tex. LW Post Office Bldg.	R. E. Winfrey	Citrus & vegetables	Oct.18- May 31

OPENING

Brawley, Calif. Planters Hotel Bldg.	J.A.Hunter	Cantaloups	May 20 - July 31
Leesburg, Florida	R.M.Peterson	Watermelons	May 14 - June 15
Macon, Georgia LW 502 Grand Bldg.	C.B. Miller	Peaches	May 20 - July 25
Washington, N. C.	J.M. Roberts	Potatoes	May 22 - June 28

CLOSED

Corpus Christi, Texas	E.E.Paulson	Onions	Apr.22 - May 10
Hammond, La.	R. G. Risser	Strawberries	Mar.25 - Apr. 27
Hastings, Fla. LW	J.M.Roberts	Poatoes	Apr.1 - May 13
Plant City, Fla.	R.M.Peterson	Straws & misc. vegs	Jan.16 - May 10
Presque Isle, Me.	S.W.Russell	Potatoes	Sept.10 - May 3

R.G.Risser in New Orleans
E.E.Paulson returning to Kansas City
L.G.Gay in Los Angeles

LW - Indicates on leased wire.

C. D. Schoolcraft, Chief

REGULATORY DIVISION

RECORD

There has been established what is believed to be a record for handling of PACA case. Order was signed by the Judicial Officer, March 5, 1946. Appeal was filed with a U. S. District Court on about April 1. Appeal was heard and judgment rendered by the U. S. District Court on May 9, 1946. Disposition was made of the case in about two months whereas ordinarily appeal cases take from six months to two years.

PLANS NOT MATERIALIZED

Our plans for Mr. Cahoon to take over territory formerly handled by Mr. Edwards did not materialize. Mr. Cahoon will remain in the Washington office.

MISBRANDING VIOLATIONS

Due to promiscuous misbranding violations a warning was recently sent to Alabama shippers concerning the packing of other than U. S. 1 grade potatoes in sacks branded U.S. 1 Shippers were cautioned that a continuation of the practice might result in the filing of PACA disciplinary complaints against them.

T. C. Curry, In Charge

FRESH PRODUCTS STANDARDIZATION AND INSPECTION DIVISION

NAVY INSPECTION WORK AT SAN PEDRO

Capt. C. H. Gillilan, Supply Officer in Command of the U. S. Naval Supply Depot at San Pedro, recently wrote us expressing appreciation for the excellent work and cooperation of J. B. Wright, in charge of our fresh fruit and vegetable inspection work there. During the last three years the inspection work for the Navy at that point has been extremely heavy and we are glad to know that the Navy Department has been so appreciative of the service rendered there.

RESIGNATION OF C. E. AMENT

C. E. Ament who handled inspection of fresh fruits and vegetables delivered to the Navy at Norman, Oklahoma, during the war is resigning effective about May 18.

TEMPORARY SEASONAL SHIPPING POINT ADDRESSES

For Tennessee reports wire Andrew W. Gordon, Humboldt, Tenn.
For Alabama potato reports wire John A. Curry, Foley, Ala. (Telephone 134)
For Georgia peach reports wire Federal-State Inspection Service, 701 Grand Bldg., Macon, Ga. Mail: P.O. Box 1157. Telephone 8103 & 8104.

NUMBER TO BE USED IN MARKING INSPECTED RAILROAD CARS

The Dallas Inspection Office under Mr. William J. Smith, has been assigned No. 27 to be used in marking inspected railroad cars.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

S. H. Fountain advises that his office has moved from 369-3rd Street to 149 Franklin Street, Oakland, 7, California.

E. E. Conklin, Chief